

Strategies for Success

School District Energy and Environmental Management Program

1. Management Strategies

An energy and environmental management program is beneficial to everyone involved. In addition to protecting students from environmental health and safety risks, it can help save money and increase efficiency. Schools that make environmentally healthy practices a top priority can realize many of the following benefits:

- ☐ Save money through reduced consumption of goods and energy savings;
 - ☐ Increase efficiency of operations and use of resources;
 - ☐ Create favorable learning and teaching conditions;
 - ☐ Generate community goodwill;
 - ☐ Avoid future liability problems;
 - ☐ Educate the next generation on the value of caring for the environment.
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- ☐ Create top management support by adopting an energy and environmental policy statement for your school.
 - ☐ Appoint a person to coordinate or “champion” your program. This person should be open to change, have a commitment to energy and environment and possess the ability to communicate well with all levels of the school.
 - ☐ Establish a team of employees and students to identify and brainstorm environmental improvement ideas. Make changes in the way your school uses materials, energy and water should not be just one person’s responsibility.
 - ☐ Conduct a facility “walkthrough” or self-evaluation to assess current environmental conditions and identify areas for improvement.
 - ☐ Identify operations where large quantities of water and energy are used and those that generate a high volume of waste. Assign priority action to be taken in those areas.
 - ☐ Seek employee and student suggestions, and find other ways to involve them in your energy and environmental program (e.g., create a poster or slogan contest).
 - ☐ Identify curriculum tie-ins.
 - ☐ Create incentives, rewards or recognition for employees and students who take a leadership role in your school’s efforts.
 - ☐ Provide training to staff and students, if applicable, for new products and processes.
 - ☐ Track and report your energy and environmental progress. Look at what resources your schools uses and what it wastes. Try to calculate and quantify the savings potential of your energy and environmental efforts.
 - ☐ Build permanence into your program. Make your efforts long lasting by incorporating energy and environmental improvement into core operations and curriculum.
 - ☐ Seek recognition for your energy and environmental efforts and share your experience with other schools.
 - ☐ Celebrate your achievements.

Did You Know? Total utility costs for schools, including fuel, water, wastewater, and trash disposal, are estimated to average \$140 per student per year.

We're here to get you started, and see you through!

Rebuild Colorado

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